



District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

DECEMBER 2009

The Shortlist

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009
& RESUMING ON JANUARY 7, 2010

Makiki Evening Farmers' Market
@ St. Clement's Church, 4:30-7:30 pm

Come on down to 2009's final evening Farmers' Market. Attracting over 300 patrons every Thursday, this charming market has added more produce vendors since opening and welcomes the participation of Halau Ku Mana, Makiki's very own charter school. For more information about the weekly Farmers' Market, call George or Grace Lee at 955-7745.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009
"Aloha Aina" Community Recycling Day
@ Washington Middle School, 8am-2pm

Time to clear out the house before the holiday season really gets going? Come drop off your old appliances, car batteries, tires, computers (1 per household), laptops, printer cartridges, cell phones, newspapers, clothes, HI-5 beverage containers, cooking oil and so much more.

With our many "Earth Day Partners", help turn trash into cash for Washington Middle School and Queen Ka'ahumanu Elementary School. For more information, please contact Rene Mansho at or Representative Belatti's office at 586-9425.

District 25 News


To comment on something written in *District 25 News* or to request regular e-delivery, please write to:

Representative Della Au Belatti
State Capitol, Room 331
Honolulu, HI 96813
repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov

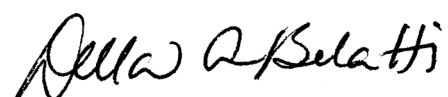


Welcome to a special edition of *District 25 News*.

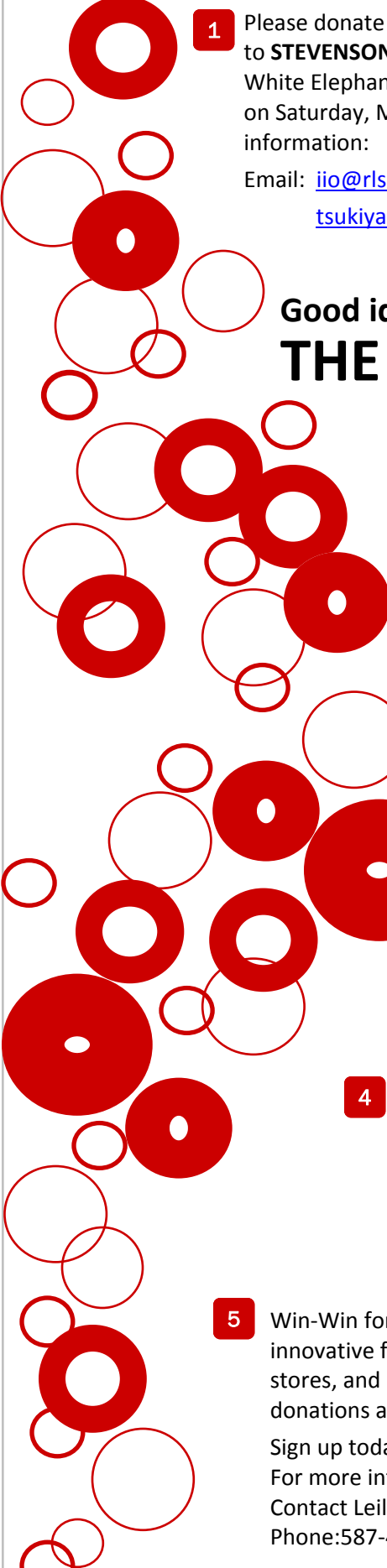
You'll find a Makiki-oriented "Good List" full of ideas for Christmas giving that can give all year-round. You'll also find some of my thoughts on Hawai'i's troubled public schools and how we, as a community, may be able to address some of its shortcomings in the months (and years) ahead! From my family to yours,



**Mele kalikimaka &
Hauoli makahiki hou!**



Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 25

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- 1** Please donate your gently-used items to **STEVENSON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S** White Elephant Garage Sale to be held on Saturday, March 6th. For drop-off information:

Email: iio@rlsms.com or
tsukiyama@rlsms.com

- 2** During the holidays the art is giving. Give the art lovers in your life a Student, Individual, or Dual Membership to **THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM** which is the only museum in the state of Hawai'i devoted exclusively to contemporary art. For more information:

Website: www.tcmhi.org
Email: nhiga@tcmhi.org

Good ideas for Good Giving this holiday season **THE GOOD LIST**

In the spirit of the "12 Days of Christmas", this year's **GOOD LIST** has expanded to 12 worthy not-for-profit groups who live and work within our neighborhood. In addition, we thought that it would be helpful to remind neighbors of the many organizations that do so much good here in our very own neighborhood.

There are a variety of websites and phone numbers listed here that will help navigate you toward a good community cause and to your choice of charity throughout the entire year. Even the smallest of gifts can bring a smile to someone—let's spread smiles this holiday season!

- 3** Donate your used vehicle to **CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I** where the net proceeds from the re-sale of your vehicle helps to fund programs and services. **CCH** has been actively serving Hawai'i since 1947 by offering help to people of all faiths and cultures, especially those with the greatest need. To learn about vehicle donation requirements:

Phone: 546-CARS (2277)

Website: www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org

- 4** Willing hands and engaged souls are invited to join **FRIENDS OF THE MAKIKI COMMUNITY LIBRARY** in committing as little as 4 hours per month to assist with a variety of library services. The Library is currently opened on Wednesdays, 2-6 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays, noon-4 pm.

Contact: Nichelle Morris
Phone: 522-7076

- 5** Win-Win for schools & students! Our Mighty Roughriders can be enriched through an innovative funding program with your everyday purchases at many local restaurants, stores, and businesses. This is an easy way to help **ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL** since donations are paid for by the participating merchants.

Sign up today so our students can win prizes and monetary donations to go to the school. For more information:

Contact Leila Tamashiro or Diane Fukuda
Phone: 587-4600, x356.

6 SACRED HEART PARISH FOOD PANTRY accepts food donations at their office between 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday, located at 1701 Wilder Avenue (corner of Wilder & Halekula). The Parish also hosts lunch at its St. Pius X church to those in need every Friday as part of their compassionate mission. To learn more about the pantry and free lunches at St. Pius X—
Phone: 973-2211.

8 Enroll now for Winter SNAP 2009 at the **HAWAI'I NATURE CENTER** where children 6-11 years old can participate in a variety of nature activities including forest hikes, stream investigations, nature crafts, insect safaris, beach explorations, and off-site field trips.
Phone: 955-0100
Website: www.hawaiinaturecenter.org

10 Interested in working with adults? The **MCKINLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS** is currently looking for tutors to help out with adult students on weekdays or weeknights. Hours are flexible! The MCSA offers FREE English As Second Language classes year-round on the McKinley High School campus. Next semester for 600 adult students begins on January 25th.
Contact: Ken Furukawa
Phone: 594-0540
Email: ken_furukawa@notes.k12.hi.us

12 Support **THE PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT** by donating needed canned food items like meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna sausages), fruits, & vegetables for their Food Pantry Program's annual Christmas distribution on December 19th.

Contact: Carolyn K.
Phone: 955-7745
Email: parishadmin@stclem.org

7 Help **FERNHURST YWCA** help women make tailored transitions into the workforce by giving them your gently used career clothing and accessories, such as shoes, purses, and unused cosmetics. The **DRESS FOR SUCCESS HONOLULU** program is accepting donations.
Drop off info:
Phone: 538-7061, x603
Email: mnobo@ywca.org or go to: www.ywca.org

9 Want to keep kids away from smoking? Then donating items to **TOBACCO FREE HAWAII** might be the cause for you. Tobacco prevention in Hawaii is the mission for this local charity. They need to fill gift baskets for their March 6th event at the Pacific Club. If you can assist by donating large/small wellness, beauty or health items it would be appreciated for their fundraising efforts.
Contact: Diane Lobre
Phone: 946-6851, x200
Email: diane@tobaccofreehawaii.org

11 Donations of non-perishable food items are needed by **SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN-HONOLULU**. Items such as canned meats (Spam, corned beef, tuna, Vienna sausage) and boxed goods (rice, macaroni, cereals) are distributed to patients from neighbor islands and Pacific islands when they are discharged to the community and remain on Oahu for continued care. The Honolulu Shriners Hospital provides pediatric specialty care for children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, post-burn injuries, sports injuries and cleft-lip in a family-centered environment at no charge to patients—regardless of financial need.
Items can be delivered to Shriners Hospital for Children-Honolulu, 1310 Punahou Street. For more information:
Phone: 951-3670.

2010: The Year of Educational Reform?

By REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI

As this newsletter goes to print, negotiations between Governor Linda Lingle and the Hawaii State Teachers' Association to reduce the number of furlough days affecting Hawaii's public school system have broken down. According to Board of Education Chairman Garrett Toguchi, the Board, Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto, and HSTA will "continue to look at every possibility to reduce the number of furloughs."

SPECIAL SESSION'S DIMMED PROSPECTS

Whether a solution emerges from these talks, a Special Session of the State Legislature will likely not be convened because any solution devised by the Board and HSTA may involve legislative action for which there is no clear consensus among elected officials or may not require legislative action. Despite this very disappointing stalemate, the 2010 Session will be a year where educational policy will be vigorously debated to address the serious shortcomings with Hawaii's troubled public education system.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM?

Proposed reforms are already emerging and deserve closer scrutiny in the months ahead. Much attention has focused on Hawaii's dismal number of school days and instructional hours in comparison to other states. Bills to impose minimum school days and instructional hours could go a long way in ensuring students and their learning are not lost in the collective bargaining process.

Lifting the cap on the number of charter schools will also be an innovation measure as charter schools, here and nationwide, have proven that effective learning



HAWAII STATE CAPITOL (Oct. 23, 2009): Students take over the Capitol rotunda on the first of 17 Furlough Fridays during the 2009-2010 school year to make signs and rally for the return to classrooms.

and teaching can occur outside of the regular public school system. For example, during these challenging times, many charter schools have chosen not to implement furlough days and have managed their finances so that schools can remain open for charter school students.

More complicated, but certainly worth looking into, will be reforms that restructure Hawaii's public education system. These reforms should start with a push for a thorough financial, management, and performance audit of the Department of Education for clearer insight into the public school system's operations. Lawmakers will also likely consider an appointed Superintendent and appointed school board members as means to achieve greater accountability for decisions and policies adopted by the Board and the Department.

GETTING INVOLVED

For any reform to be implemented, each person can play a critical role as an informed citizen and advocate. Citizen advocacy groups like Save Our Schools Hawaii (www.sos808.org) and Hawaii Education Matters (www.hawaiieducationmatters.org) have sprung up in response to furloughs and offer various ways for citizens to take action. The Learning Coalition (www.thelearningcoalition.org) is another organization with a rich website that provides information about Hawaii's public school system, the state Board of Education, and parent resources. In the months ahead, I urge you to become involved by joining with other citizens and by contacting your elected leaders. As one anonymous thinker once said, "the only thing more expensive than education is ignorance."



HAWAII STATE CAPITOL (Oct. 23, 2009): Students and parents march around the Capitol to protest the imposition of furloughs on students and rally for the return of instructional days to the 2009-2011 school years.